8   <u>Abstract:</u>

An adaptive interface method and apparatus for interfacing a telephony appliance such as

an analog telephone, modem, fax modem, facsimile machine teleconferencing device, headset,

VoIP telephone or non-compatible digital telephone to a digital, analog or hybrid telephone

system, such as a private branch exchange (PBX). The interface device is suitable for use with a

5   variety of PBX's produced by different manufacturers, despite differences in signaling

characteristics between the PBX and an associated PBX-compatible telephone. The interface

device is coupled between A telephony appliance and a PBX. In order to communicate the

interface device "learns" the characteristics of the telephony appliance and also of the PBX. This

is accomplished by: determining whether each component of the telephone system is an analog

10   or digital device; and, if the telephone system is a digital, monitoring communications between

the PBX and the PBX-compatible telephone. Then, the interface device is configured according

to each appropriate protocol by retrieving set of operational parameters from a plurality of such

sets pre-stored in a memory device within the interface device. The learning technique allows

the interface device to automatically adapt itself to variations in signaling characteristics between

15   the PBX and PBX-compatible telephone sets among the different PBX manufacturers.